

Week of September 27, 2010, #33

Banned Books Week

September 25 — October 2, 2010

Each year, the American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) receives hundreds of reports on book challenges, which are formal written requests to remove a book from a library or classroom because of an objection to the book's content. There were 460 recorded attempts to remove materials from libraries in 2009 and more than 11,000 attempts recorded since OIF began compiling information on book challenges in 1990.

The "Top Ten Most Frequently Challenged Books of 2009" reflects a range of themes and consists of the following titles:

ttyl, ttfn, l8r, g8r (series), by Lauren Myracle

Reasons: Drugs, Nudity, Offensive Language, Sexually Explicit, Unsuitable to Age Group

And Tango Makes Three, by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson

Reasons: Homosexuality

The Perks of Being A Wallflower, by Stephen Chbosky

Reasons: Anti-Family, Drugs, Homosexuality, Offensive Language, Religious Viewpoint, Sexually Explicit, Suicide, Unsuitable to Age Group,

To Kill A Mockingbird, by Harper Lee

Reasons: Offensive Language, Racism, Unsuitable to Age Group

Twilight (series) by Stephenie Meyer

Reasons: Religious Viewpoint, Sexually Explicit, Unsuitable to Age Group

Catcher in the Rye, by J.D. Salinger

Reasons: Offensive Language, Sexually Explicit, Unsuitable to Age Group

My Sister's Keeper, by Jodi Picoult

Reasons: Drugs, Homosexuality, Offensive Language, Religious Viewpoint, Sexism, Sexually Explicit, Suicide, Unsuitable to Age Group, Violence

The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things, by Carolyn Mackler

Reasons: Offensive Language, Sexually Explicit, Unsuitable to Age Group

The Color Purple, Alice Walker

Reasons: Offensive Language, Sexually Explicit, Unsuitable to Age Group

The Chocolate War, by Robert Cormier

Reasons: Nudity, Offensive Language, Sexually Explicit, Unsuitable to Age Group

Source: American Library Association news release, September 21, 2010,
<http://ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pr.cfm?id=4986>

Summer Reading Fun

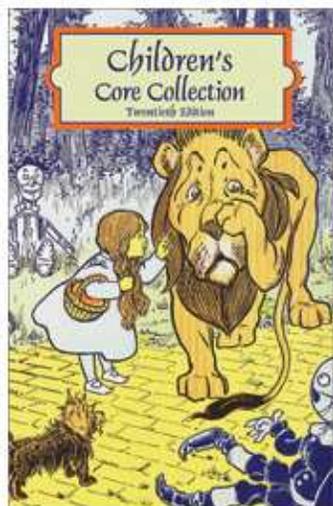


At the Heritage Public Library Friends' Family Fun Raffle, Marcus Jones was the big winner. He is with his grandfather .

Useful Resources

Children's Core Collection

From H.W. Wilson



Children's Core Collection has been an indispensable librarians' tool for over 100 years. In the 20th edition you will find thousands of entries for fiction and nonfiction works, story collections, picture books, and graphic novels recommended for readers from preschool through sixth grade, in addition to professional literature for the children's librarian.

- More than 11,000 titles in the main edition (2010), over 7,000 of which are new to this edition.
- Broad revisions in the areas of environment, science, and religion, as well as fiction and picture books.
- Approximately 2,200 additional new titles listed in annual paperback supplements published 2011 through 2013.

- Entries listed by Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification, with separate sections for nonfiction, fiction, and short story collections.
- Essential purchases indicated with a star.
- Author, title, and subject index, providing an in-depth key to the information in the collection.

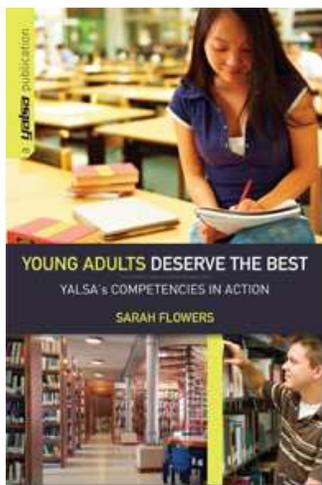
Four-year service (Includes hardcover volume plus three annual paperback supplements; ISBN 978-0-8242-1106-6, \$210)

Young Adults Deserve the Best: YALSA's Competencies in Action

By Sarah Flowers

Young Adults Deserve the Best is a document outlining areas of focus for providing quality library service in collaboration with teenagers. In this book, Sarah Flowers identifies and expands on those competency areas. This useful work includes:

- Anecdotes and success stories from the field
- Guidelines which can be used to create evaluation instruments, determine staffing needs, and develop job descriptions
- Additional professional resources following each chapter that will help librarians turn theory into practice.



ALA Editions, 2010, ISBN 978-0-8389-3587-3, \$48.00

TumbleBooks

The TumbleBookLibrary, a collection of TumbleBooks, animated, talking picture books, suited for elementary school children, is now available for use in all public libraries in Virginia.

The access link to use TumbleBooks in each public library has been sent to each public library director.

Once the link has been established in your public library, please notify Enid Costley at the Library Development and Networking department. Her telephone number and email address are listed below.

The TumbleBookLibrary program is supported in whole or in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Library of Virginia

Youth Services Notes

is issued weekly, more or less, by

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Everyone Works With Youth!

"Young customers, from babies to teens, have needs that differ from those of adult customers, and they often have difficulties expressing these to staff they encounter in the Library. Whether or not employees are directly assigned to serve children and/or teens and regardless of their duties, they must handle a young person's expressed or unexpressed needs in the most competent manner possible."

Taken from PLA conference, March 2010

Milestones in Child Development

A three-hour workshop using Sesame Street characters to focus and explain the characterizes of young children. This workshop is for anyone who works with young children. There will be an update on the library reading programs, and everyone is encouraged to bring a prop or preschool program idea to share. A light snack will be served.

November 1

9:00 a.m. to Noon at the Shenandoah County Library
514 Stony Creek Blvd, Edinburg, VA 22824

November 5

9:00 a.m. to Noon at the Hampton Public Library
4207 Victoria Blvd, Hampton, VA 23669

November 15

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Essex Public Library
117 North Church Lane, Tappahannock, VA 22560

December 3

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Danville Public Library
511 Patton Street, Danville, VA 24341 Light lunch provided

Early Literacy and Books Making Connections

Taught by **Saroj Ghoting**

Course Begins January 24, 2011

Class is limited 25 people. Cost \$25.00.

This four-week online course is a basic introduction to the six early literacy skills as set forth in the *Every Child Ready to Read @ Your library Initiative* from the Public Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children of the American Library Association.

Required reading "Ages and Stages" by Karen Miller will be provided.

Participants will also be required to read "Bunny Fun" by Sarah Week.

A prerequisite to Early Literacy and Books Making Connections is "**Introduction to Moodle**," a free online course. *Introduction to Moodle* will be offered beginning January 3, 2011 and must be completed by January 20, 2011. Anyone signed up for Early Literacy and Books will automatically be signed up for *Introduction to Moodle*. Please contact Enid Costley directly at enid.costley@lva.virginia for more information on the course.

More Summer Reading Fun

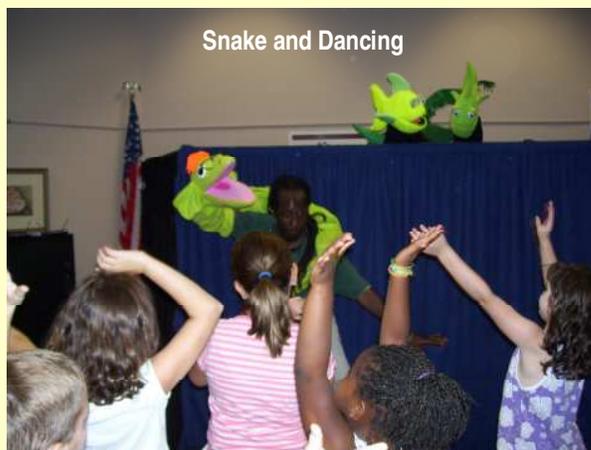
at **Culpeper Public Library**



Space Café Group Photo



Anime and Hula Storytime



Snake and Dancing



The listserve for **PUB**lic librarians serving **Y**oung **A**dults and **C**hildren

"Does anyone have any rhymes, songs, fingerplays, activities, etc that would work well in a storytime about shoes? I LOVE the new book Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes by Eric Litwin, and I'm trying to put together a storytime around it, since I've found some other cute shoe-themed books that don't fit in elsewhere. I'll post a compilation. Thanks for your help!"

Ginger Tebo, Children's Librarian, Flower Memorial Library, Watertown, NY 13601

Books

"Ooh la la polka dot boots" written by Ellen Olson-Brown

"Whose shoes?" by Anna Grossnickle Hines.

"Shoe bop!" by Marilyn Singer

"New Socks" by Bob Shea.

For songs I like Raffi's version of "Something in my shoe" or Bill Harley's "Black Socks."



There are two great songs about boots that I know. Laurie Berkner has a song called Boots on her Victor Vito CD and Sara Hickman has a song called Boots (different song) on her album called Toddler. Both are catchy, easy-to-learn songs -- particularly the Laurie Berkner song. There's the Mother Goose rhyme, "1, 2, buckle my shoe, 3, 4, shut the door etc..." If you're an Elvis fan, you could sing Blue Suede Shoes (though the lyrics don't exactly promote the best value system!) One possible activity would be to play a "shoe toss" where kids have to toss bean bags or ping pong balls into shoes for prizes (like the Grand Prize Game on the Bozo Show!). And here's a link to the "Shoe Storytime" suggestion on thebestkidsbooksite.com: <http://www.thebestkidsbooksite.com/storydetails.cfm?TopicID=247> And you probably already have this one, but do you the book Shoe Baby by Polly Dunbar? It's super cute!

I have used this rhyme with 2 and three year olds (parents usually have to come up with the 2's).

Use your eyes, use your eyes

You can look and see.

If you have on (color) shoes

Come and stand by me.

Then, since we are all standing together, we get into a circle and hold hands and sing Ring

Around the Rosie.



Of course the little old woman who lived in a shoe.

How about the song One Shoe Bear?

I am going to make a flannel board set with all different kinds of shoes, and then adapting a book like "Which Shoes Would You Choose?" by Betsy R. Rosenthal to ask the kids questions about the type of shoes they would want to wear for different things. You know, showing them boots and asking if they would use them in the swimming pool (No!!) and then put up flippers or something appropriate. I am guessing that most of our preschoolers are not going to know names of shoe types so I think it will be silly but also a good way to learn vocabulary.

Here, also, are some old-time rhymes with lots of historic vocabulary:

"Cobbler Cobbler"

Cobbler, cobbler, mend my shoe,

(Pound fists together in rhythm)

Get it done by half past two.

(Let arms indicate half past two on the clock) 'Cos my toe is peeping through,

(Continued on page 5)

Shoe Storytimes *Compiled by Ginger Tebo Continued from page 4*

(Push your thumb up through left hand and wiggle)
Cobbler, cobbler, mend my shoe.
(Pound fists together again)

Cobbler, cobbler, mend my shoe,
(Pound fists together in rhythm)
Get it done by half past two.

(Let arms indicate half past two
on the clock) Stitch it up and stitch
it down,

(Hands up, hands down)
Then I'll give you half a crown.
(Pretend to give away money)



"Cock-a-doodle-doo!" (could make a flannel board)
Cock-a-doodle-doo!
My dame has lost her shoe,
My master's lost his fiddling stick
And doesn't know what to do.

Cock-a-doodle-doo!
What is my dame to do?
Till master finds his fiddling stick
She'll dance without her shoe.



Cock-a-doodle-doo!
My dame has found her shoe,
And master's found his fiddling stick,
Sing doodle-doodle-doo.

Cock-a-doodle-doo!
My dame will dance with you,
While master fiddles his fiddling stick For dame and
doodle-doo.

Here are a couple of shoe rhymes.

Cobbler, cobbler, mend my shoe
Cobbler, cobbler, mend my shoe
Get it done by half past two.

Half past two is much too late!
Get it done by half past eight.

Stitch it up, and stitch it down,
And I'll give you a half a crown.

I've also heard it as:
Stitch it up and stitch it down
Make it the best pair of shoes in town.

There's also:
Shoe the little horse,
Shoe the little mare,
But let the little colt go bare, bare, bare.

I LOVE this idea! You could even have the kids wear
mismatched shoes or the craziest shoes they can find. I
can't wait to do this one myself!

Before I jump into bed at night,
Before I dim the light,
I put my shoes together,
So they can talk at night.
I'm sure they would be lonesome,
If I tossed them here and there.
So I put them close together,
For they're a friendly pair.

First, I loosen mud and dirt,
(motions)
My shoes I then rub clean.
For shoes in such a dreadful sight,
Never should be seen.
Next, I spread the polish on,
And then I let it dry.
I brush, and brush, and brush, and brush, How those
shoes shine, oh my!



We all wear our walking shoes, walking shoes, walking
shoes.

We all wear our walking shoes, all day long.
Repeat with: Stomping shoes, kicking shoes, jumping
shoes, running shoes.

Here's one foot, here are two
Both are wearing "brand new" shoes
So you stand up, turn around,
Dance across the floor,
That's what these new shoes are for!
You can change brand new to whatever sounds fun (ballet,
mud-stomping, dinosaur, etc.).

If I had magic shoes
Do you know what I'd do?
I'd skate all over town
and then come back to you.
If I had magic shoes
Do you now what I'd do?
I'd walk right up the wall
and then come back to you.
If I had magic shoes
Do you know what I'd do?
I'd run around the world
and then come back to you.

sing to: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
Some shoes buckle,

Shoe Storytimes *Compiled by Ginger Tebo Continued from page 5*

Some shoes clip
Some shoes zip--
And zap they rip.
Some shoes Velcro,
Some shoes tie.
Some shoes hurt,
And some won't tie.
Some shoes seem
Like all the rest,
But my new shoes
Sure are best.

There are all kinds of shoes
For all kinds of feet,
To wear at home
Or out on the street.
There are boots for splashing
And sneakers for dashing.
There are slippers for napping,
And tap shoes for tapping,
There are cowboy boots for riding,
And ice skates for gliding.
But the best shoes of all
Are the ones that fit you
While you're doing the thing
You like to do.

*This one makes a great flannel board.

Nursery Rhymes:

There Was an Old Lady Who Lived In a Shoe
Cobbler, Mend My Shoe
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn Around

Songs:

Tap, Tap, Tap, Go Baby Shoes (This is from a l-o-n-g time ago, the lyrics may be fuddled.) Tap, tap, tap, go baby shoes Running down the hall.

Tap, tap, tap, go baby shoes,
When he hears you call.

Tap, tap, tap, go baby shoes,
When he climbs the stairs.

Tap, tap, tap, go baby shoes,
Hear them everywhere.

Pitter-patter, pitter-patter,
Here and there,

Pitter-patter, pitter-patter,
Everywhere.

Tap, tap, tap, go baby shoes--
I don't hear a peep.

Mommy takes off baby shoes,
When it's time to sleep.



Flannel Board:

The Case of the Missing Shoe -- you can find it here:

<http://www.gryphonhouse.com/activities/activityDetail.asp?ID=819>

Winter Dress

Extras: shoelaces; shoes and boots (various); matching shoes

Books: Shoes, Shoes, Shoes, Ann Morris, c.1995;
Benjamin Bigfoot, Mary Serfozo, c.1993; I Went Walking, Sue Williams, c.1990

I used the following stories: The Foot Book, Hello Toes, Hello Feet, Whose Shoe's and New Shoes, Red Shoes.
I did these songs: Head, shoulders, knees and toes; Cobbler, Cobbler; Tying my shoe; One, two buckle my shoe.



For Pete the Cat I learned how to do signs for cat, the colors on the book and the word shoe.

Try this link: <http://www.thebestkidsbooksite.com/storydetails.cfm?TopicID=247>

I usually get great ideas from this site.

I just found this website: http://storytimepreschooltoddlers.blogspot.com/2006/10/best-picks-for-storytime-about-feeet_15.html

Boots by Laurie Berkner on victor Vito CD

I made boot pictures to hold up each time we "change" boots. Don't forget to really stomp your foot when spelling BOOTS!! =)

I use this song with shakers: "The Crazy Shakedown" from Exercise Party. You can listen to a clip on amazon.com <http://www.amazon.com/The-Crazy-Shakedown/dp/Boo2JJCBGG> It starts with crazy feet, then knees, etc... At one point we have crazy toes and we touch them to our nose. I stop it right after that because the song is quite long.

I actually just planned a shoe/feet themed storytime!
Here are the songs and rhymes that I plan to use:

Let's Pretend

(Have the kids get up and act out these actions)

Let's put on tap shoes,
And tap dance to a tune.

Let's put on anti-gravity boots,
And walk on the moon.

Let's put on basketball shoes,
And make a 3-point shot.

Let's put on baby booties,
And crawl like a tot.

Let's put on cowboy boots,
And take a ride on a horse.

Shoe Storytimes *Compiled by Ginger Tebo Continued from page 6*

Let's put on golf shoes,
And hit a ball down the course.
Let's put on house slippers and take a seat, After a long
day, we should rest our feet!

This is What My Feet Can Do!

This is what my feet can do, feet can do, feet can do.
This is what my feet can do -
Can you do it too?

Let your feet go hop, hop, hop; hop, hop, hop; hop, hop,
hop Let your feet go hop, hop, hop - All around the
room.

Make your feet go jump, jump,
jump...
Make your feet go jump, jump,
jump -
All around the room.



Can your feet go tiptoeing, tiptoeing, tiptoeing?
Can your feet go tiptoeing -
All around the room?

Now your feet can sit right down,...
Now your feet can sit right down -
Quietly, please.

What Can A Puppy Do With A Shoe?

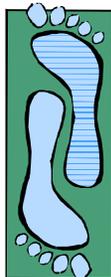
(For this one I have a paper shoe and a dog puppet. As I
read the rhyme, the puppy rips up the paper shoe.)

When Booker was a puppy
He loved to chew
So Father gave him
An old brown shoe

Booker dragged that shoe
Under the couch
He held it very tightly
By the teeth in his mouth

He chewed up the leather
All round the top
Then he chewed through the heel
But he still didn't stop

He chewed and he chewed
'Til the shoe was a scrap
Then he gulped down the rest
And curled up to nap



Gossie by Olivier Dunrea
In the Rain with Baby Duck by Amy Hest

Feet

[http://
storytimepreschooltoddlers.blogspot.com/2006/10/
best-picks-for-storytime-about-feet_15.html](http://storytimepreschooltoddlers.blogspot.com/2006/10/best-picks-for-storytime-about-feet_15.html)

Shoes Shoes & More Shoes

<http://www.geocities.com/mystorytime/shoes.htm>
Dancing Feet

[http://www.perrypubliclibrary.org/Kids/Programs/
Storytimes/shoes.htm](http://www.perrypubliclibrary.org/Kids/Programs/Storytimes/shoes.htm)

What Can You Do With A Shoe

[http://www.thebestkidsbooksite.com/storydetails.cfm?
TopicID=247](http://www.thebestkidsbooksite.com/storydetails.cfm?TopicID=247)

New Socks by Bob Shea

Why don't you expand to socks and
feet too? If you're Happy and You
Know it, Stamp your feet!!! "This
Little Piggie..."



Do you know the book "righty and
lefty : a tale of two feet" by Rachel
Vail?

Carole Peterson has a wonderful song
called "Walkin' Shoes" on her CD
Tiny Tunes.

Here are links to a couple of themes I found.

- [http://www.perrypubliclibrary.org/Kids/Programs/
Storytimes/feet_shoes.pdf](http://www.perrypubliclibrary.org/Kids/Programs/Storytimes/feet_shoes.pdf)
- <http://stepbystepcc.com/hat.html>

This is a must! It is on my CD 'A Smooth Road to
London Town' . If you
are in a hurry for the tune, I'll sing it for you.

Put Your Shoes On Lucy. Hank B Fort Jr (c)

Put your shoes on, Lucy
Don't you know you're in the city?
Put your shoes on, Lucy
It really is a pity
That Lucy can't go barefoot
Wherever she goes
'Cause she likes to feel the wiggle of her toes!

Susan Salidor's song 'Shiny New Shoes ' is perfect
too...on her CD of the same name.

'Put on my dancing Shoes' on my Cd 'I Love to Hear the
Sounds' (I'm going to put on my dancing shoes X2 I'm
going to dance on down to the end of town, I'm going to
put on my dancing shoes)

Shoe Storytimes *Compiled by Ginger Tebo Continued from page 7*

Look at chapter 7 of Jan Irving's GLAD RAGS: STORIES AND ACTIVITIES FEATURING CLOTHES FOR CHILDREN. It's entitled "Sneakers, Socks, and Happy Feet".

Have you tried Glad Rags which is a resource centered around clothes

1. Alligator Shoes by Arthur Dorros
2. Shoes From Grandpa by Mem Fox
3. Smelly Socks by Robert Munsch
4. New Socks by Bob Shea
5. Baby Shoes by Mo Dashka Slater

Shoes

Baby's shoes,
Sisters' and Brothers' shoes,
Mother's shoes,
Father's shoes,
Giant Shoes!

What Feet Can Do

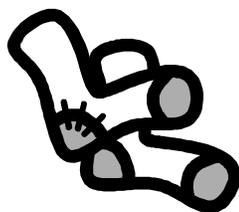
This is what my feet can do
Feet can do, feet can do.

This is what my feet can do,
Can you do it too?

Let your feet go hop, hop, hop...all around the room.
...jump, march, tippy toe, sit right down.

Charlie's Toes

Charlie has stinky feet,
He never washes his toes.
So when you go near Charlie,
Be sure to hold your nose!



Five Pairs of Dirty Socks

Five pairs of dirty socks on my
bedroom floor,

Mom washed the blue pair and
then there were four!

Four pairs of dirty socks that belong to me,
Mom washed the red pair and then there were three!

Three pairs of dirty socks; what's a kid to do?

Mom washed the green pair and then there were two!

Two pairs of dirty socks, I wear them when I run,

Mommy washed the white pair and then there was one!

One pair of dirty socks rolled up in a ball,

Mom washed the last pair, my favorite pair of all.

Try the song Stinky Feet by Jim Cosgrove. The kids love it!

One of my all time favorites is a sock flannelboard rhyme. It isn't shoes, but maybe it could be thrown in:

Five Pairs of Dirty Socks!- Finger Play

5 pairs of dirty socks on my bedroom floor

Mom washed the blue pair and then there were 4
4 pairs of dirty socks that belong to me

Mom washed the red pair and then there were 3
3 pairs of dirty socks, What's a kid to do?

Mom washed the green pair and then there were 2
2 pairs of dirty socks, I wear them when I run.

Mom washed the purple pair and then there was 1.
1 pair of dirty socks, one and only one,

Mom washed the last pair, my favorite pair of all!

No more dirty socks, Mom washed them all today,
But wait until tomorrow, cause there's more on the way!

Socks and Shoes

Socks and shoes, socks and shoes

Stripes and spots, reds and blues

Boots for rain, boots for snow

Slip them on, and off we go!



Squeaky Shoes

My shoes are new and squeaky
shoes,

They're very shiny, creaky shoes.

I wish I had my leaky shoes

That mother threw away.

I liked my old brown leaky shoes

Much better than these creaky shoes

These shiny, creaky, squeaky shoes

I've got to wear today.

~Anonymous~

My favorite shoe/ feet books are for the 2year old crowd

Whose Feet? by Jeanette Rowe (makes a great flannel)

From Head to Toe by Eric Carle

Feet in the Gym by Teri Daniels

For 3 and up

Tap Dance Fever by Pat Brisson

Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae

For very good listeners

The elves and the Shoemaker by Jim Marche

Song/rhymes

This Old Man

The Ants Go marching

"If the Shoe Fits" by Alison Jackson

"New Shoes" by Jeanne Willis and Margaret Chamberlain

Shoes (Tune: Farmer in the dell)

We all wear shoes,

We all wear shoes,

To keep our feet so warm and clean,

We all wear shoes.

Shoe Storytimes *Compiled by Ginger Tebo Continued from page 8*

We wear them when we run,
We wear them when we run,
We wear them when we go outside,
We all wear shoes.

We wear them when it rains,
We wear them when it snows,
We wear them when the sun is
out.
We all wear shoes.



"Five Pairs of Shoes" (Use
with felt board. Hold up
fingers as you go.)

Five pairs of shoes in the shoe store.
Someone bought the red ones, now there are four.
Four pairs of shoes for all to see
Someone bought the blue ones, now there are three.
Three pairs of shoes shiny and new
Someone bought the yellow ones, now there are two.
Two pairs of shoes standing in the sun.
Someone bought the green ones, now there is one.
One pair of shoes, Oh what fun!
Someone bought the black ones, now there are none.

Magic Shoes

If I had magic shoes, do you know what I'd do?
I'd skate all over town and then come back to you.
If I had magic shoes, do you know what I would do?
I'd walk right up the wall and then I'd come back to you.
If I had magic shoes, do you know what I would do?
I'd run around the world and then come back to you.
Shoes Song (Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")
Some shoes buckle, some shoes clip Some shoes rip.
Some shoes zip.
Some shoes Velcro. Some shoes tie.
Some shoes hurt and some won't tie.
Some shoes seem like all the rest
But my new shoes are sure the best!

This is the version of "There Was an Old Woman Who
Lived in a Shoe" that I use:

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.
She had so many children she didn't know what to do.
She gave them some puzzles, play dough and glue
And added a playroom to the toe of her shoe.

You could also use the second verse of "This Old Man"
This old man
He played two
He played knick knock on my shoe
Knick knock paddy wack
Give the dog a bone

This old man went rolling home

Try adapting "The Hokey Pokey"
You put your right shoe in, etc.

A poem by Marchette Chute:
An Event
Somethings happened very fine.
New shoes.
Guess whose?
Mine!

A poem by Nonie Borba:
This bright shiny penny
Shows Abe Lincoln's face
You'll find him in banks
Or most anyplace
Tuck it into your purse
Slip it into your shoe
And always you'll have
Lots of good luck with you.

A great movement story for the kids to act out as you
tell or read it:
"The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything" by
Linda Williams.





I'd love to hear about programs any libraries do for grade school children to improve their reading skills. I'm familiar with Book Buddies programs where children and teens/seniors are paired together for the child to practice reading aloud, as well as programs where children read to dogs, but I'm looking for different ideas. My own library has run a Book Buddies program for a few years, but it doesn't run as smoothly as we'd like, so I'm looking for new program possibilities.

Liz Fraser, Children's Librarian, Ela Area Public Library, Lake Zurich, IL 60047

I was thinking of a stuffed pals for reading program in which I'd invite kids to bring their stuffed animals to the library and practice reading to them. Sadly that's all I did- think but may try it as a late fall program.

We have our Reading Buddies program (similar to what you mentioned, but here's how it works for us...), available for kids between 7-12 years, and our teens are 14+. They meet for 1 hr, same time, same day each week for 10 weeks. Due to high demand, we only allow children to have up to 2 sessions of 10 weeks (long waiting list). We have three sessions throughout the year, starting October, February, and June.

Parents fill out an application for their kids, teens fill out their own application and provide 2 non-family references. We do a basic interview for the teens (2 points to this...1)gives a lot of them a chance to experience an interview 2) weeds out those who aren't committed to the program). Most of the teens are accepted. They go through a 1 hour training session where we explain what's expected of them, what's not, protocol, and how to interact with a child and what they can do together. Once they've provided us with a Vulnerable Sector Screening clearance letter from the police department, I then match up the teens and kids based on the availabilities they marked on their application. (Matching and setting up the first meet is rather frustrating and time-consuming)

After the first meeting - where volunteers get the contact info for the kids' parents and vice versa (they're expected to contact each other if they can't make it, etc.) - everything goes smoothly. We leave them to their own schedule and only hear from them once they've completed the session or if they are having problems with the parents of the kids (this is usually in the form of parents not showing up with their kids for the sessions and leaving the volunteers hanging).

And that's it. Except for some difficulties with the matching (which is usually due to language barriers), it runs smoothly on it's own.

In some of the grants I've seen written for reading programs,

1. Schools have paired children with fireman and policeman as mentors for reading.
2. Another grant had the mayor come in and read a story to children & their parents. After which, the children read a story to their family and concluded the evening with refreshments and cookies.
3. Another grant had children dress up in costumes that mirrored the storyline and then they read the story together.
4. And lastly, children were taken to both a retirement home and rehab center to read to disabled adults.

Win a trip to New Orleans to attend ALA's Annual Conference from YALSA

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